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slavery and humanities- circular, 1857

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CIRCULAR.

SLAVERY AND HUMANITY.

You are respectfully entreated to consider the claims of the *PROVINCIAL FREEMAN*, a Newspaper published among the Refugees in the Province of Canada, and now struggling to exist, that it may be an instrument in the hand of Providence, to improve their mental and moral condition, and to encourage habits of independence.

Ignorance and inexperience of individual responsibility, are bitter fruits of the Institution of Slavery; as an anti-slavery instrumentality, then, the *Freeman* aims in an humble way to uproot the tree, by inculcating a healthy anti-slavery sentiment, in a country which, though under British rule, is particularly exposed, by intercommunication, to proslavery religious and secular influence; and to encourage the colored people to improve their minds, and to hold fast by their religious faith, and thus to dissipate the dark cloud hovering over their intellect, the direct result of their former condition.

In this work we believe good christians, men and women must sympathize, and therefore we feel emboldened to make this direct appeal to them for genuine and practical encouragement.

For nearly three years we have pursued our labors without aid, except the bare amount of our yearly subscription, \$ 1. 50 [except in a small amount, which altogether, would not make fifty-dollars,] and we find that an effort commensurate with the work we have to do, and the liabilities we have incurred, must be made, else not only must our work cease, but we must remain in debt to a few good men, who encouraged us by their loans at first.

Shall we look for a patient consideration of our appeal, dear friends, and a response from your liberality, to meet the exigencies of the cause in this particular? We have never appealed to you before, as we had hoped by severe self-denial, and untiring exertions, to succeed without aid except from the sale of the papers, but, after having labored long and being obliged to support ourselves by other means, (for not one cent do we realize toward support from the papers as yet) the indifference of many indebted to us, and the little sympathy from friends of the slave arising from non-acquaintance with our enterprise, make our efforts to meet our liabilities impossible as yet.

We beg, therefore, that this simple Statement may not be unheeded by friends to the anti-slavery cause, but that by your generous consideration you will enable us to go on.

Any *Donations* in funds sent by friends to our address, will be duly and gratefully received, and acknowledged through the paper, and a copy sent to the friends so contributing. Here is an interesting though much neglected People to labor for—here is much work to do.—The scars of oppression have to be healed, and the responsibilities belonging to men who live under the just and merciful rule of Her Majesty—and the British Government—the only shelter for this people—have to be inculcated. Shall we then be aided and encouraged in this work until abler heads and stronger hands can be induced to take hold, or until we secure the help of able and willing minds whose pens might be nobly employed, to carry our cause along safely and securely?

Most respectfully and affectionately yours

In the cause of human freedom and elevation.

MARY A. S. CARY, }
H. F. DOUGLASS, } *Editors.*
I. D. SHADD }

Communications addressed to I. D. SHADD.

CHATHAM, C. W., Feb. 1857.

Circular

Provincial Freeman 1837

Editors

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In the cause of human freedom and elevation.

MARY A. S. CARY,
H. P. DOUGLASS,
L. D. SHADD }

CHAS. C. W. F. 1837.

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